

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A removable, water-whitening resistant pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer comprising:

- (a) at least one hydrophobic monomer selected from an alkyl (meth)acrylate ester of an alcohol wherein the alkyl portion of the alcohol is linear or branched and contains at least 4 carbon atoms, or a mixture of at least one styrenic monomer and at least one alkyl (meth)acrylate ester of an alcohol wherein the alkyl portion of the alcohol is linear or branched and contains at least 4 carbon atoms, wherein when a styrenic monomer is present, said styrenic monomer is present in an amount up to about 30 wt. % of the total hydrophobic monomer mixture;
- (b) at least about 2 wt. % of at least one hydrophilic monomer; ~~and~~
- (c) at least about 5 wt. % of at least one partially hydrophilic monomer selected from alkyl (meth)acrylate esters of an alcohol wherein the alkyl portion of the alcohol has 1 to 2 carbon atoms, N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone, or mixtures ~~thereof; thereof; and~~
- (d) at least one polymerizable surfactant,

wherein said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is crosslinked with pentaerythritol tris[([β]-N-aziridinyl)propionate], and the wt. % of monomers (a), (b), and (c) are based on the total weight of monomers (a), (b), and (c) and

wherein said removable, water-whitening resistant pressure sensitive adhesive has a peel strength of less than about 2.0 pounds per inch peel force with adhesive failure mode when applied to PET film.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of monomer (a) in said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is about 50 to about 90 wt. %.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2 wherein the amount of monomer (a) in said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is about 70 to about 90 wt. %.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of monomer (b) in said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is about 2 to about 10 wt. %.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 4 wherein the amount of monomer (b) in said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is about 3 to about 8 wt. %.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of monomer (c) in said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is about 5 to about 25 wt. %.

7. (Original) The composition of claim 6 wherein the amount of monomer (c) in said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is about 8 to about 20 wt. %.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the pH of said aqueous emulsion polymer is at least 6.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 8 wherein the pH of said aqueous emulsion polymer is about 6.5 to about 9.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said monomer (a) is selected from isooctyl acrylate, 4-methyl-2-pentyl acrylate, 2-methylbutyl acrylate, isoamyl acrylate, sec-butyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, isodecyl methacrylate, isononyl acrylate, isodecyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 11 wherein said monomer (a) is selected from n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said monomer (b) is selected from a monoolefinic monocarboxylic acid, a monoolefinic dicarboxylic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 13 wherein said monomer (b) is selected from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14 wherein said monomer (b) is selected from acrylic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said monomer (c) is selected from methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 16 wherein said monomer (c) is selected from methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, or mixtures thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said aqueous emulsion polymer further comprises a surfactant selected from a non-polymerizable surfactant, a polymerizable surfactant, or mixtures thereof.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 18[19] wherein said non-polymerizable surfactant is selected from an ionic surfactant or a mixture of an ionic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

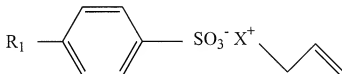
21. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 20 wherein said ionic surfactant is an anionic surfactant selected from alkyl aryl sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, sulfates of ethoxylated alcohols, sulfates and sulfonates of ethoxylated alkylphenols, sulfosuccinates, diphenyl sulfonates, or mixtures thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[18] wherein said surfactant is at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymerizable surfactant selected from compounds having a terminal allyl amine moiety, substituted phenyl compounds having at least one alkenyl substituent, polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salts, or mixtures thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant has a hydrophilic portion selected from a sulfonate allyl amine moiety, a sulfate allyl amine moiety, or a phosphate allyl amine moiety, and a hydrophobic portion selected from -R, or a group having the formula $\text{RO}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n$; wherein R is an alkyl group or an alkyl-substituted phenyl group wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and n is an integer from 2 to 100.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 23 wherein n is an integer from 2 to 15.

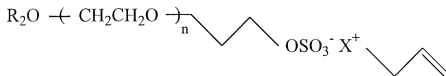
25. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of an alkyl benzene sulfonate having the formula



wherein R₁ is an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and X⁺ is selected from ⁺NH₃, ⁺NH₂R₄, or ⁺NHR₄R₅, wherein R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl groups.

26. (Original) The composition of claim 25 wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonate.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of an alkyl ether sulfate having the formula

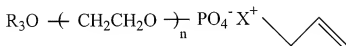


wherein R₂ is an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, n is an integer from 2 to 100, and X⁺ is selected from ⁺NH₃, ⁺NH₂R₄, or ⁺NHR₄R₅, wherein R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl groups.

28. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 27 wherein n is an integer from 2 to 15.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 28 wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of laureth sulfate.

30. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of a phosphate ester having the formula



wherein R₃ is an alkyl or alkyl-substituted phenyl group wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 20 carbon atoms, n is an integer from 2 to 100, and X⁺ is selected from ⁺NH₃, ⁺NH₂R₄, or ⁺NHR₄R₅, wherein R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl groups.

31. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 30 wherein n is an integer from 2 to 15.

32. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 31 wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of nonylphenol ethoxylate (9 moles EO) phosphate ester.

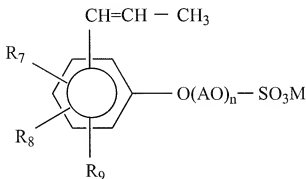
33. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant is an allyl amine salt of a sulfate having the formula



wherein R_6 is an alkyl group having 6 to 20 carbon atoms, and X^+ is selected from $^+NH_3$, $^+NH_2R_4$, or $^+NHR_4R_5$, wherein R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from C_1 - C_4 alkyl or hydroxyalkyl groups.

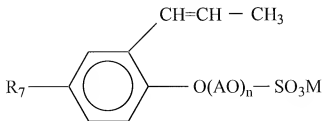
34. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 33[31] wherein R_6 is an alkyl group having 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

35. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant is a substituted phenyl compound having the formula



wherein R_7 is an alkyl, alkenyl or aralkyl group containing 6 to 18 carbon atoms; R_8 is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl, alkenyl or aralkyl group containing 6 to 18 carbon atoms; R_9 is a hydrogen atom or a propenyl group; A is an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms; n is an integer of 1 to about 200; and M is an alkali metal, an ammonium ion, or an alkanolamine residue.

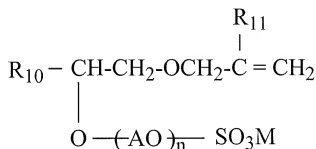
36. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 35 wherein said polymerizable surfactant is a substituted phenyl compound having the formula



37. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 36 wherein R₇ is alkyl, A is ethylene, and M is alkali metal or ammonium.

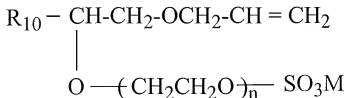
38. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 37 wherein R₇ is nonyl, n is about 10 to about 30, and M is ammonium.

39. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1[22] wherein said polymerizable surfactant is a polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salt having the formula:



wherein R₁₀ is an alkyl group containing 8 to 30 carbon atoms; R₁₁ is hydrogen or methyl; A is an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms; n is 0 or an integer of 1 to about 200; and M is an alkali metal, an ammonium ion, or an alkanolamine residue.

40. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 39 wherein said polymerizable surfactant is a polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salt having the formula:



wherein R₁₀ is an alkyl group containing 8 to 14 carbon atoms; and n is an integer of 1 to about 200.

41. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 18 wherein said surfactant is a mixture of an ionic non-polymerizable surfactant and a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymerizable surfactant selected from compounds having a terminal allyl amine moiety, substituted phenyl compounds having at least one alkenyl substituent, polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salts, or mixtures thereof.

42-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A removable, water-whitening resistant pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer comprising:

- (a) about 70 to about 90 wt. % of at least one hydrophobic monomer selected from an alkyl (meth)acrylate ester of an alcohol wherein the alkyl portion of the alcohol is linear or branched and contains at least 4 carbon atoms, or a mixture of at least one styrenic monomer and at least one alkyl (meth)acrylate ester of an alcohol wherein the alkyl portion of the alcohol is linear or branched and contains at least 4 carbon atoms, wherein when a styrenic monomer is present, said styrenic monomer is present in an amount up to about 30 wt. % of the total hydrophobic monomer mixture;
- (b) about 2 to about 10 wt. % of at least one hydrophilic monomer; ~~and~~
- (c) about 5 to about 25 wt. % of at least one partially hydrophilic monomer selected from alkyl (meth)acrylate esters of an alcohol wherein the alkyl portion of the alcohol has 1 to 2 carbon atoms, N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone, or mixtures ~~thereof~~ ~~thereof~~; and

(d) a polymerizable surfactant,

wherein said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is crosslinked with

pentaerythritol tris([β]-N-aziridinyl)propionate] crosslinker, and the wt. % of monomers (a), (b), and (c) are based on the total weight of monomers (a), (b), and (c).

51. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 50 wherein said aqueous emulsion polymer further comprises ~~a surfactant selected from a non-polymerizable surfactant, a polymerizable surfactant, or mixtures thereof.~~

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 51[52] wherein said non-polymerizable surfactant is selected from an ionic surfactant or a mixture of an ionic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

54. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 53 wherein said ionic surfactant is an anionic surfactant selected from alkyl aryl sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, sulfates of ethoxylated alcohols, sulfates and sulfonates of ethoxylated alkylphenols, sulfosuccinates, diphenyl sulfonates, or mixtures thereof.

55. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 50[51] wherein said surfactant is at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymerizable surfactant selected from compounds having a terminal allyl amine moiety, substituted phenyl compounds having at least one alkenyl substituent, polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salts, or mixtures thereof.

56. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 51 wherein said surfactant is a mixture of an ionic non-polymerizable surfactant and a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymerizable surfactant selected from compounds having a terminal allyl amine moiety, substituted phenyl compounds having at least one alkenyl substituent, polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salts, or mixtures thereof.

57-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) A removable, water-whitening resistant pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer comprising:

- (a) about 70 to about 90 wt. % of at least one hydrophobic monomer selected from butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, mixtures of butyl acrylate and

2-ethylhexyl acrylate, or a mixture of styrene and at least one of butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, wherein when styrene is present, said styrene is present in an amount up to about 30 wt. % of the total hydrophobic monomer mixture;

- (b) about 2 to about 10 wt. % of at least one hydrophilic monomer selected from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, or mixtures thereof;
- (c) about 8 to about 20 wt. % of at least one partially hydrophilic monomer selected from methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, or mixtures thereof; and
- (d) ~~a polymerizable surfactant selected from a non-polymerizable surfactant, a polymerizable surfactant, or mixtures thereof;~~

wherein said crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer is crosslinked with pentaerythritol tris([(β]-N-aziridinyl)propionate] crosslinker, and the wt. % of monomers (a), (b), and (c) are based on the total weight of monomers (a), (b), and (c).

66. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 65 further comprising ~~wherein said surfactant is a non-polymerizable surfactant.~~

67. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 66 wherein said non-polymerizable surfactant is selected from an ionic surfactant or a mixture of an ionic surfactant and a nonionic surfactant.

68. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 67 wherein said ionic surfactant is an anionic surfactant selected from alkyl aryl sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, sulfates of ethoxylated alcohols, sulfates and sulfonates of ethoxylated alkylphenols, sulfosuccinates, diphenyl sulfonates, or mixtures thereof.

69. (Original) The composition of claim 65 wherein said surfactant is at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible polymerizable surfactant selected from compounds

having a terminal allyl amine moiety, substituted phenyl compounds having at least one alkenyl substituent, polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salts, or mixtures thereof.

70. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The composition of claim 66[65] wherein said surfactant is a mixture of an ionic non-polymerizable surfactant and a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymerizable surfactant selected from compounds having a terminal allyl amine moiety, substituted phenyl compounds having at least one alkenyl substituent, polyoxyalkylene-1-(allyloxymethyl) alkyl ether sulfate salts, or mixtures thereof.

71-78. (Cancelled)